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Musket

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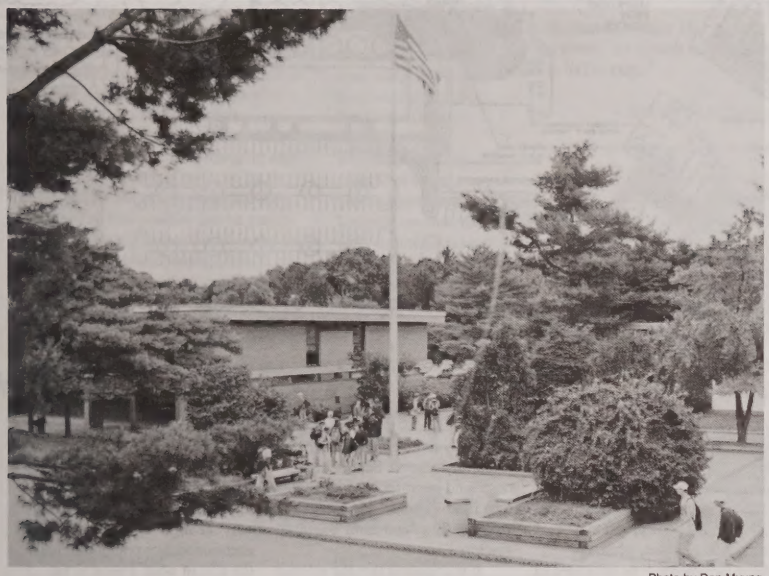

Photo by Dan Myung

EASY COME, PATIO - After the renovations, the flag pole area will be but a memory. Filled in with grass and closed off from traffic, the quad will be transformed into a patio.

Renovations may come to LHS

By Bertrand Landel

More changes may be coming soon to LHS. On September 22, the board of Selectmen voted in favor of renovation plans that would affect all of Lexington's nine public schools. The project, which was proposed two years ago by the school committee, was designed to accommodate the rise in student enrollment.

The renovation plans will be implemented only with the approval of the citizens of Lexington. The plan calls for the reorganization of the space available in each of the schools, so that the current space may be used more effectively. The changes will have a major impact on student life while they are going on and after they are completed.

"If the voters allow the school committee' s proposal to go through, then we can expect construction to start maybe as soon as a year or two from now," said Principal Philip Lanoue. "We have contacted architects, they have proposed a design for a more efficient use of space.

"If the votes allow the school committee's proposal to go through, then we can expect construction to start maybe as soon as a year or two from now."

- Principal Philip Lanoue

However, it is hard to say how this project will evolve, since we are only in the planning stage."

The school has not seen a project of such magnitude since its construction. The last renovations were made in the mid-eighties when the auditorium was built. "That project," explained Lanoue, "cost[ed] under ten million dollars, so it does not compare to the $130 million that will be spent by the town. Of that budget, about thirty million dollars will be spent on the high school."

"Although we are planning many new things for the school, they all have to be approved by the residents of this town," said Lanoue. "Because the residents will be the ones funding the project by paying taxes, the school board is dedicated to making them see that this is very important not only for the students currently in school, but also for those that will come in the future."

Except for the parking lots and the grassy areas around the buildings, the outside appearance of the school should not change much under the current plan. The student parking lot will be the heaviest hit by the changes to come. The lot will be accessible directly from Worthen road and will serve as a parent and bus drop-off area. Furthermore, a total of ten handicapped parking spaces will be added, and four of those will be in the student lot.

The faculty lot will be closed off from Muzzey street, but will remain open on the Waltham street side. There will be a loop for parent drop-off behind the ABC building. These reconfigurations are planned to better the flow of traffic and parking for teachers and students.

The area surrounding the flagpole will be closed off from traffic and will be filled in with trees and grass. The main entrance will be moved so that it faces the current student parking lot.

All of the buildings will be affected, although their outward appearance will not change much. "One of the major concerns," said Lanoue, "was to keep the structures and change only their inner configuration, because new laws concerning protection of wetlands prevent us from

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NASA astronaut praises students

By Emily Wanderer

LHS was recently treated to a special presentation by NASA. On Friday, September 12, during G block, astronaut Charles Precourt, veteran of three space flights, gave a presentation.

Precourt and Dan Golden, the administrator of NASA, chose to visit LHS because of its students' superior achievements in math and science. They had asked Senator John Kerry to recommend a school in Massachusetts for them to visit, and Kerry had immediately suggested LHS.

Initially, Precourt planned to speak only to the science classes meeting during G and H blocks. Kerry decided, however, that he would also like to attend the assembly and use the opportunity to present LHS with a plaque commending its excellence in math and science.

Kerry's office requested a full school assembly, but school administrators decided instead to have earth science and physics students attend, as well as some biology and chemistry classes.

Unfortunately, both Kerry and Golden were unable to attend. Kerry was called at the last minute to a hearing in Washington, D.C. concerning former Massachusetts Governor William Weld's nomination for the Mexican ambassadorship. Golden's flight did not land at Hanscom Air Force Base in time for him to be present at the assembly.

Despite their absences, the assembly was exciting and informative. Precourt's presentation was supplemented by a video focusing on his last space flight, which took place between May 15 and 24. The 221 hour and 20 minute space flight, led by an international crew, met up with the Mir space station where it transferred supplies, equipment, and astronauts.

During a question-and-answer session at the end of the assembly, students learned that the Mir space station was visible from Earth and that at certain times, it is possible to communicate directly with the astronauts by CB radio. To learn more about the times and places from which it is visible, he suggested that students visit the NASA home page.

Precourt praised LHS students for their hard work and especially for their achievement in math and science. He said that students were at the "beginning of a long road and a prosperous career." The astronaut also told students about how he had gotten interested in his career. He grew up watching both his father and uncle fly, and he also remembered watching the moon missions on television.

"I thought it was really informative," said senior Carl Tortola. On the other hand, senior Mary Osten asked "What about Major Tom?"

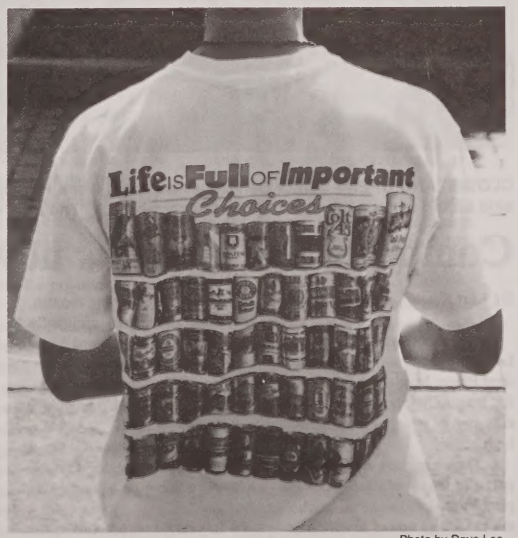


Photo by Dave Lee

CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN - Senior Dave Oviatt lets his shirt do the talking. *See article on page 2.*

LHS becomes hardhat area

RENOVATE *continued from page 2*

expanding."

The rows of lockers in A-F house will be eliminated, and the space gained from that will help to expand classrooms. Instead of having hundreds of lockers which many students do not use, there will be fewer of them and more space for classrooms.

The cafeterias will also be shut down. Instead, two large common areas will be opened. One will be located in the music wing and the other in what are currently the old wood and metal shops. The common areas will have spacious adjoining patios, one in the senior quad, and the other in the flagpole area.

In the buildings, the "house" system will be de-emphasized. Instead of having houses, classes and administrative clusters will line two long hallways running up and down each building. Each building, ABC, DEF, HG, J, and science will have its own administrative cluster.

In the science building, the wall facing the fields will be pushed out to allow all rooms to have laboratory facilities. Also, there will be no more science lecture hall, and the library will be moved. The bottom floor will be divided up between earth science, storage and offices. On the second floor, adjacent to the fields, will be biology labs. In the center of the second floor will be physics labs, and the other side of the building will be lined with chemistry labs.

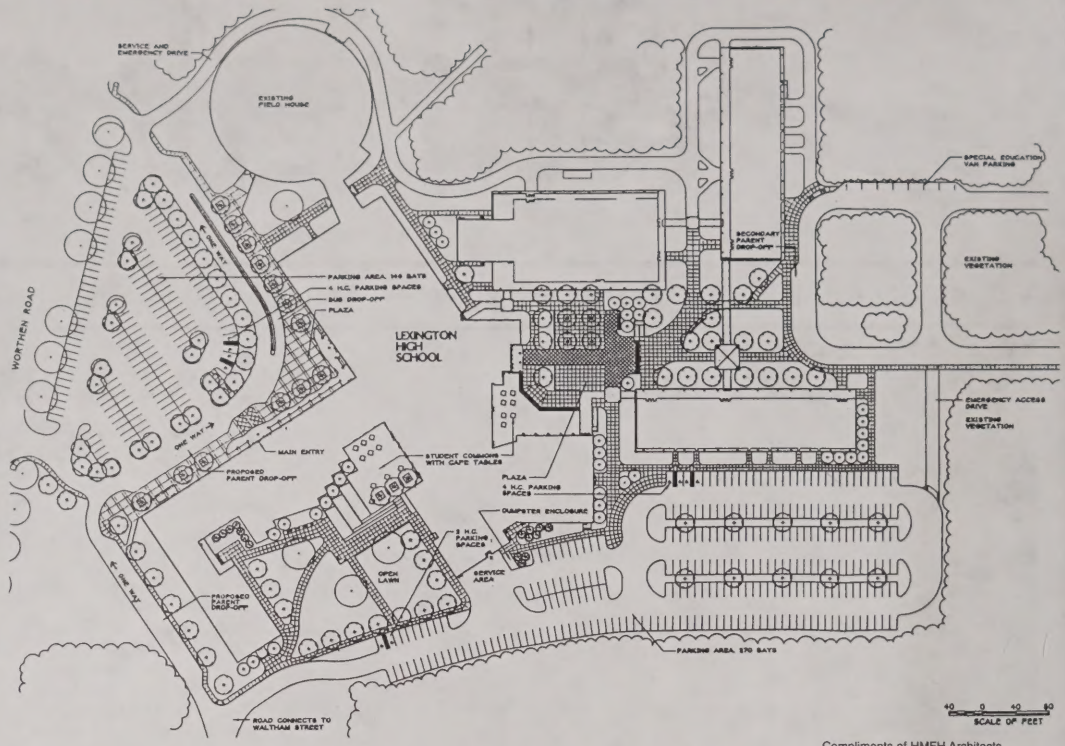
The library will have a new home on the senior quad-side of G house. The wall will be pushed out, and a mezzanine will be built on the second floor.

The LABBB program will remain in A house, while the ACE program will be relocated to J house. This move will create office space in the area where ACE is currently located.

Renovations will also affect the gym area. Shower space will be greatly reduced, to make more room for lockers. Separating the boys' and girls' locker rooms will be a fitness center for aerobics, weight lifting, and using exercise machines.

It is expected that the science building will be the first to be renovated, because the labs are the only structures which cannot be recreated anywhere in the school.

At one point, LHS had space for over 2,700 students. The student population is currently 1,443. Some have questioned why the high school is not able to accommodate a population half the size of what it used to be. "Back then," said Lanoue, "they did not have so many programs, such as LABBB and ACE, and students were not required to take so many classes."



Compliments of HMFH Architects

Photo by Dan Myung

CLOSED AND OPEN - Senior Ben Elgart wonders when Principal Lanoue will close the outside eating areas again as he did on September 29. The area re-opened on October 6.

Computerless teachers now gain access

By Kurt Kastorf and Ayon Roy

Last month, the town of Lexington purchased three hundred Power Macintosh computers for the public school system, seventy-two of which are for the high school.

The computers are just one part of a five-year state-approved program to encourage all teachers to use the school network, and to provide all students with access to the internet. Currently the school system is entering year two of the program. It's agenda over the coming months is to have all teachers minimally proficient in E-mail, word processing, and network services. Staff members for the program have already upgraded local area networks with new software and electrical utilities so that all of the Lexington Public Schools can run on a shared server.

In year three, administrators will work to design an integrated curriculum to take advantage of the new technology. Years four and five, according to Ellis, are "for the students." LHS plans to introduce classes or lectures to train students in computer use, and provide greater access to Mac labs and other equipment.

The Town also plans to hire new faculty members to operate the network. If all goes as planned, every school in Lexington will have a technical advisor. Lexington has hired a network engineer, but currently only the high school and junior highs have full-time staff members operating the computer labs.

School Committee serves restrictions

By Ami Karkar and Sarah Park

At the end of the last school year, the Lexington School Committee approved several policies which could affect all students. Two open campus requirements were amended, and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) developed a substance use policy to which LHS must adhere.

Last year, the unweighted GPA requirement for open campus was 2.0, and juniors were required to have completed at least 20 hours of community service in order to obtain open campus. This year, the minimum GPA is 2.3, and while juniors still must have 20 hours of community service, seniors must have finished 30 hours of community service by the beginning of the year.

For freshmen and sophomores, off campus includes "the area across the street from D House toward the Muzzey St./Park St. corner and the student parking lot."

Underclassmen may not be in these areas at any time during the day, including during lunch. Penalties are severe for violators. The first offense will lead to three detentions and parental notification. The second will bring a one-day suspension and parental notification, and the third will bring a three-day suspension and a meeting with Principal Lanoue.

As a member of the MIAA, the body governing athletics in Massachusetts, Lexington is obliged to enforce the MIAA policy which was designed "to promote zero-tolerance of under-age (21 years) drinking... as well as the use of illegal and harmful chemical substances by our students... [and] to bind the community together in support of its students. "

This "zero-tolerance" policy has been extended to encompass "clubs, student organizations, and student government" as well as athletic teams.

Due to this extension, students may not "consume, buy/sell or give away" an "intoxicating" substance such as alcohol, tobacco, or "inhale the vapors of" glue "during the school year." Previously, the policy affected only those who drank on school grounds.

Penalties for violation of the policy range from two-week to twelve-week suspensions from participation in activities, depending on the frequency of violations. Any officer who violates the substance use policy will have his position. revoked

Senior Ram Gowda said, "The death of Scott Kreuger [an MIT freshman who died from alcohol poisoning] only underscores the urgency of more stringent restrictions."

But senior Leela Ramnath noted, "It doesn't make sense for the school to say that it has to apply the MIAA policy to everyone even if they don't do sports. The MIAA doesn't have jurisdiction over everyone."

Making a mess of lunch and the schedule

By Jason LeeKenan and Ranjan Roy

The school year of 1997-98 can bear witness to the passing of the food service torch from the traditional Marriott food provider to the new Canteen food service. Though the lovers of the classic "breakfast-for-lunch" may feel a bit heavy-hearted, nouveau platters such as the recent Chinese food for lunch are available for the hungry student.

The change in uniform is not the only noticeable alteration, as the overbearing Vitapup machines can attest to the change in service. The ever-so-cool Vitapup of G-Caf can be seen watching over the students in line, waiting to refresh them with his quasi-slurpee concoctions. Another apparent change is the loss of the Spunkmeyer. The Spunkmeyer cookie, which endured numerous packaging and price changes, has been replaced by the freshly-baked m&m and chocolate chip cookies. The new cookies can be purchased individually, as opposed to the traditional "three-spunk package."

Breakfast services present another serious improvement over the former food service. Instead never knowing which cafeteria to enter for a quick donut or croissant, F-Caf has become an always welcoming refuge for the morning commuter in need of a quick fix.

Though the changes have been either welcomed or unnoticed by most, some students feel a bit short-changed by the transition. Junior Devan Satterfield commented, "You can't make your own sandwiches any more; they only have those prepackaged ones available." His sentiment is shared by many other traditional "D-Caffers" who were able to withstand the most arduous of lines in order to savor their very own creations.

Though some things may have been lost, many new additions also grace the lunchtime connoisseur. The new Friendly's Sundae cups have taken many students by storm. His face covered with chocolate, Josh Leopold seconds this notion, "These sundaes are the greatest things ever: so much chocolate in such a little cup."

"These sundaes are the greatest things ever: so much chocolate in such a little cup."

- Junior Josh Leopold

While purchasing these new additions, students should notice the physical changes of the food service areas. New, vibrant color coordination has replaced the drab "Grand Marketplace" signs of yesteryear. New vending machines line the cafeteria. Though the Lance machines produced many unique adventures, students can breathe a sigh of relief as this year's machines are more traditional in content.

Changes in the food service have been coupled with changes in the lunch schedules. While the new three-lunch schedule provides less crowded lunches, the scheduling process has created much confusion. There are several differences between the three-lunch schedule and the last year's two-lunch schedule. First, lunch now takes up two blocks.

On Mondays, for example, lunch block could be part of E block or F block depending on your classes. Second, the time your lunch begins and ends is no longer dependent upon the room of your class. Last year, odd-numbered rooms had first lunch, while even-numbered rooms had second lunch.

Because the new schedule must incorporate two blocks of classes, the computer assigns a specific lunch time for each class, arranged so that no two classes or lunches overlap. To add to the confusion, a class during E block might meet at the same time as a class during F block, because of the varying lunch periods.

The best bet in solving your lunch time questions is to look at your schedule. Asking a teacher what lunch you have won't always work, because your lunch is affected by two blocks, and thus two teachers. For example, if your biology class meets at the start of the first lunch period, no one in that class will have first lunch. However, depending on their next class, some students will have second lunch while others will have third lunch.

If you have a schedule change, ask your counselor to print out a new schedule for you. If your new class meets during a lunch block, those class times may be different from your previous ones.

For better or for worse, the school lunch service has changed. This transition surely affects a majority of students, and has seemed to draw many extreme emotions out of students. What new surprises Canteen holds for the future, we can only wait and see. All that is certain is that filling the shoes of the beloved Marriott is a greater responsibility than any student can possibly fathom.

LHS student rides bike to fight AIDS

By Ashwini Nadkarni

Most LHS students are content to fork over a dollar in the name of a good cause. A few students actually go out and run the five kilometers or walk the twenty miles. One student rode his bike over 260 miles in three days in support of people with AIDS.

Dolph Paulsen, sophomore at LHS, successfully completed the course of the 3rd annual Boston-New York AIDS Bike Ride. The fund raiser took place from September 12-14 and raised more than $6 million for those with the AIDS in Boston and New York. Individuals had to raise a minimum of $1500 to participate in the event. Paulsen, who fundraised with his father, exceeded this amount by nearly $6500.

Though this was the first time that Paulsen had participated in the Ride, he is no biking debutante. Paulsen, along with his father, trained heavily for the AIDS Bike Ride, cycling roughly 280 miles every weekend. In fact, Paulsen feels he was over-prepared for the course. "There was a lot of motivation to keep going, what with everyone cheering you on," he said.

The ride consisted of an amazing 260 mile course, in which riders were required to complete 75-80 miles a day to reach the overnight stations. At these check points, food, showers and massage facilities were provided. Paulsen described the first day as being the most difficult since the ride through Connecticut required cycling up many hills.

Paulsen became inspired to participate in AIDS fundraising events in remembrance of his uncle who died of AIDS. When a family friend suggested that he participate in the AIDS Bike Ride, Paulsen seized this opportunity to raise money.

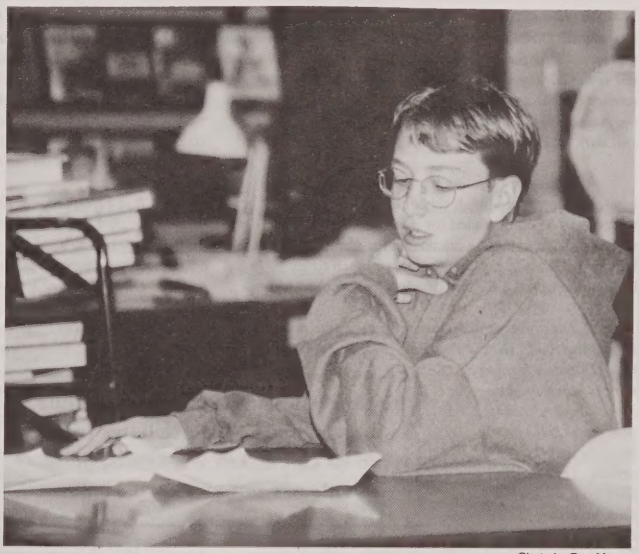


Photo by Dan Myung

HUNGRY - Sophomore Shaw Flick tries to figure out when he has lunch.

Photo by Dan Myung

LOUD AND PROUD - Senior Carolyn Bloomberg attracts students to her cause at the Activities Fair.

Student Activities Fair provides fun, flash, and food

By Becca Mayer

It was a warm yet cloudy day on Friday, September 12. It was also warm and cloudy in J caf where the Student Activities Fair was held during B and C blocks. The body heat created by hundreds of underclass visitors and dozens of older recruiters was enough to make several participants leave the premises in gasping for air.

The Activities Fair takes place every September, and its purpose is to let underclassmen know about the many extracurricular clubs and activities that LHS has to offer. It also gives the upperclassmen a chance to strut their stuff in front of young, unknowing freshman.

As one walked into the crowded cafeteria, one could hear recruiters screaming slogans which conveyed the same message: "Come join our club." The colorful array of signs and posters was amazing. Most club leaders did anything and everything to attract new and fresh faces for their member rosters.

Activities made posters featuring pictures of past events or waved flags of foreign countries to attract possible new members. Some, like the Italian Club, even used food to lure the unknowing freshman to their tables. Other leaders used a different method of recruitment, waiting nonchalantly for a genuinely interested student to approach with questions or a signature.

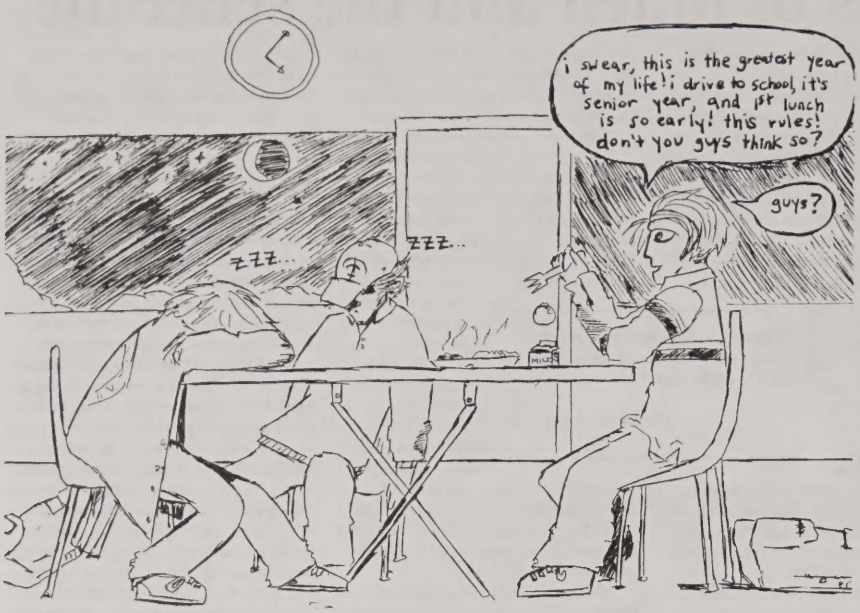
Overall, the people representing clubs at the SAF felt it was a success. Senior Theresa Green, president of SADD said, "It was a really good opportunity to get some young blood involved."

Italian Club representative Ken Kolodziej mumbled, "These pizzelles are mmm. . . mmm. . . good."

Young Moderates Club President Carl Tortola remarked, "Our club is a happy medium."

One fresh-faced freshman queried, "Do I get to shoot the muskets too?"

Musket editor Ashwini Nadkarni said, "Darn it kid. We just gave away the last one." Get 'em while they're hot.


i swear, this is the greatest year of my life! i drive to school, it's senior year, and 1st lunch is so early! this rules! don't you guys think so?
guys?
zzz...
zzz...

Eric Hou

Solution to the lunch crunch

Meet Dirk. Dirk is a typical LHS student. Dirk is Everyman. Dirk knows what we know. Dirk suffers what we suffer. Dirk has open campus. Dirk has a car. Dirk opens the car door. The dew settles in Dirk's hair. A rooster cock-a-doodle-doos in Dirk's ear. Dirk gets into the car. Dirk starts cruising. Dirk has lunch block. It is still dark outside.

The administration has clearly worked hard to create the new three-lunch schedule. The scheduling committee is to be commended for managing to carry off this radical change without a hitch. Yet the ramifications of having a two and a half hour range of lunch times go far beyond the trivial difficulty of coordinating class times.

Dirk ignores the paper boys bicycling down the side of the road. Dirk is living the dream. Dirk is going to McDonald's for lunch. Dirk is going to have a Big Mac. Dirk pulls up into the near-empty parking lot. Dirk struts in under the golden arches. Dirk is grinning. Dirk goes up to the counter. Dirk proudly orders a number one extra value meal. Dirk is presented with an Egg McMuffin, a Hash Brown, and a coffee.

The problem with the lunch schedule is simple: lunch time oscilliates from 10:20 to 12:50. On weekends, most students are not awake at 10:20. During summer vacation, some students had not yet fallen asleep by 10:20. Digestive systems went into immediate shock on the first day of school upon being presented with the second full meal of the day when the body expected to be comfortably asleep. We have yet to recover.

It is the next day. Dirk has made peace with his new lunch time. Dirk has decided Hash Browns are even tastier than french fries. The clock reaches 10:20. Dirk's stomach growls. Dirk has adjusted. Dirk is now ready for food. Dirk checks his schedule. Dirk does not have lunch for another two and a half hours. Dirk begins to whimper softly for his mother.

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Upon hearing that LHS students sometimes eat lunch at 10:20, most outsiders either laugh out loud or express their disbelief. The Canteen Corporation is not to be blamed for failing to deliver food on time on the first day of school. The reason for their tardiness is clear. Some well-minded secretary considered a lunch delivery time of 10:20 to be an obvious typographical error, and innocently replaced it with 12:10 on the company's itinerary.

It is Friday night. Dirk is on the phone with his girlfriend. Dirk likes his girlfriend. She is from out of town. She wants to eat lunch with him on Sunday. She asks him what time he will pick her up. Dirk's brain freezes. Dirk no longer knows what time lunch is. Dirk hangs up. Dirk slumps to the floor. Dirk cries out, "Why? Oh, God, why?" A voice responds, "The answer, my son, is to eat." Dirk is confused.

The problem with the lunch schedule is simple: lunch time oscillates from 10:20 to 12:50. On weekends, most students are not awake at 10:20.

Eating lunch at 10:20 means that there are nearly five hours left in the school day after lunch is over. The body is ready for another meal as soon as school ends. It is surprising LHS sports teams have fared so well this season, given that they are often forced to play on empty stomachs. Many students can barely make it home without stopping for food, let alone play a two-hour soccer game which ends eight hours after "lunch".

Dirk is pondering the Message. Meanwhile, Dirk talks with a few girls at LHS. Dirk discovers that they no longer eat. Dirk asks why. They say that when they eat first lunch they feel like vomiting afterward. When they have last lunch they are hungry all day anyway. They have decided to make the best of it. They are going to lose some weight while they suffer. Dirk concludes this is not a good solution. Dirk continues to ponder.

It is the one-two punch of early lunch one day, then late lunch the next that is the most devastating result of the new schedule. Students could most likely adjust to any one lunch time, no matter how bizarre. We could even manage to become accustomed to eating lunch two hours after breakfast, as many are forced to on Thursdays, when X-block is followed by a 10:20 lunch. It is unreasonable, however, to expect us to happily eat lunch six hours after breakfast on Friday, when some have lunch at 12:50.

Dirk has figured it out. Dirk has the Solution. Dirk no longer brings books to school. Instead, Dirk brings Crackerjacks. Dirk carries a backpack filled with the red, white, and blue boxes. Dirk eats exactly one box of Crackerjacks every twenty minutes. Dirk is never hungry. Dirk is always happy. Dirk has understood the Message. Dirk is thankful. Dirk is the proud owner of eighty-nine plastic rings.

-Ken Weinstein

In praise of unleveled senior English classes

Despite the flurry of controversy that arose last spring when the English Department announced its new policy of unleveled English Courses for seniors, the problems that critics feared would accrue due to the switch have yet to arise. In fact, it seems as if the unleveled courses have created benefits for senior students.

Consider the following: this year, for the first time ever, people were not drawn towards specific courses because of their level or the effect they would have on a GPA, but instead were drawn towards courses that they found interesting. This is evidenced by the disproportionately small enrollment in the traditionally "Honors" Western Traditions class, and the expansion into three classes for British Literature.

For most previous years, the distribution of seniors in English resulted in one Western Traditions class and two British Literature classes. This year, due to the lack of enrollment, Western Traditions was canceled and British Literature swelled into three classes. This distribution due to interest seems to cure many of the problems people foresaw in the unleveled English system.

First, the classes are not massively "heterogeneous" in level. The class expectations clearly delineated expectations of each English course and the challenges they had to offer. This means students probably did not choose class loads they did not feel they could handle, and instead chose a course suitable to their knowledge and skill. Why would anyone choose a course whose level of challenge surpassed what they felt they could achieve? It seems counterintuitive, especially now that no course looks "better" on paper due to the leveling of Honors or Level 1.

Seniors are more likely to learn something if they find the subject engaging and absorbing, as opposed to if they are force-fed the material.

There is no incentive for a student to overburden his capacity of work, thus classes seem to be composed at least to the same degree of students with the same level of effort and achievement as "leveled" classes were, if not more so. There are no new additions of illiterate prehistoric men in your English class to substantially "slow" the rate of progress. Rarely have students seen radical changes in class composition: usually, students are in classes with people that have been in their previous English classes.

Second, people seem more likely to be self-motivated. Instead of choosing a class because counselor A or teacher B or parent C recommended it (due to its level or "challenge"), students are genuinely in classes where they want to learn. Only the truly perverse would willingly subject themselves to the scrupulous and specific standards of Mrs. Maier's British Literature class if they despised the disgruntled and dreary works of Hardy, thought Shakespeare was dead for a good reason, and had the option of taking any course they wanted, without extra benefits of GPA enhancement or "prestige."

[Colleges] empirically don't care what class you enroll in, just as long as you do your best work.

Students, in general, seemed to have enrolled in the classes they wanted to participate in, which means there is a higher probability that students will become interested in the material and want to succeed in the course. Seniors are more likely to learn something if they find the subject engaging and absorbing, as opposed to if they are force-fed the material. Plus, if material is engaging and absorbing, class is more interesting, pleasant and entertaining than if everyone is dragged reluctantly through the curriculum kicking and screaming.

Third, let's review: COL_ _GES (fill in the missing letters) empirically don't care what English class you enroll in, just as long as you do your best work. The unleveled classes might help nudge students ahead, since, as stated before, students might be willing to learn more if they care about the subject matter, and this enthusiasm might be reflected in their grades.

-Eun Young Choi

Substance use policy needs improvement

As a method to deter underage drinking and substance abuse the school has adopted an unjust policy that punishes a student's irresponsibility by stripping him of his position in extracurricular activities. This instrument to prevent underage drinking is likely to fail, and furthermore it raises issues about whether the administration is serving the best interests of the students.

Never mind the fact that the sentence for a first offense is only a two week suspension from the extracurricular activity; it is the principle behind the rule that is inappropriate. The rule makes a large assumption that active members of the school community are in fact the same students hosting and attending parties where there is a surplus of illegal substances. Think for a moment of a scenario where a student goes to parties infrequently and drinks twice a year. One of the times that he is breaking out of his straight-laced leader mold the police break up the party and his name is taken. He will be directly affected by the rule.

The same weekend a student sat drinking in a cold garage, alone. This student was not an involved member of the extracurricular scene. There was no loud noise to attract the police, no neighbors complaining. There was just a student drinking herself into oblivion to cope with her problems, to escape the world. Her name will not be submitted to the school, even though she needs more direct attention than the unlucky party goer.

The new policy targets social drinkers or substance users who are not necessarily the worst of the lot in terms of needing direct attention in dealing with their drinking or drug problem. Apparently, the school cares little about students who aren't leaders or active members of the school. Furthermore, this rule creates a double standard where involved members of the school are held to a different standard outside of school than every other student.

The majority of students involved in leadership activities at the high school are not getting high or drunk every weekend. Therefore, this rule is aimed at a majority of students who will remain unaffected by the policy.

The administration set out to "influence students to make wise and legal sound decisions," neglecting to consider that they may provide enough time for some students to drink more. Less structure in a student's life, with the absence of a coach or advisor, may provide enough time for some students to drink more. Also, knowing that they won't have to get up early for the car wash to support the class council gives students more freedom with their time to drink.

The administration set out to "influence students to make wise and legal sound decisions," neglecting to consider that they may provide enough time for some students to drink more.

On the surface this policy looks to be little more than an attempt at improving the school's image, rather than an earnest attempt to deal with a meaningful issue. If the administration truly had the best interests of the students at heart then shunning them from extracurricular activities would seem an avoidable path.

The substance use policy essentially denies a student the benefits of doing school-sponsored extracurriculars for a decision made in his personal life. Including students in clubs and activities allows them to further develop their confidence and capability. These characteristics may allow students to make responsible independent decisions about the lures of alcohol.

There does not seem to be a consistent connection between poor judgment in one's personal life and one's school life. If a student performs random acts of kindness over the weekend does the school reward them by signing them up to lead the Senate or to edit the *Musket*? The student would have shown his superior morality and character, but not demonstrated the competence needed to lead the activities.

By the same standards, the school should have no jurisdiction to punish students until a student shows up drunk to an activity, unless competency in the field of extracurriculars is impaired by the personal lack of judgment of the student.

Lexington High School is a public institution, and as such, dealings with legal issues outside of school and off school grounds should be left to the conventional bodies of law and family. Meeting with the substance abusing student in a guidance office or taking the student to a hospital to show her the dangers of alcohol and drugs are worthwhile steps the school could take towards curtailing underage drinking and drug use. Snooping is not.

When a leader displays qualities of commitment, organization, determination, responsibility, courage, insight or initiative - and the administration attempts to squander these characteristics for a few weeks because of a personal choice outside of school, I can only gather that the student's best interests are not being served. I can only hope that the administration will stop to think of the methods with which they are shaping students.

-Jason Hirschhorn

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Letters to the Editor

NEW FOOD SERVICE LESS THAN SATISFYING

The 1997-1998 school year brings along with it a new schedule and a new company to provide breakfast and lunch for the students at Lexington High School. Serviceable Marriott has been replaced by the Canteen Corporation, a food enterprise that is supposedly using "the latest techniques and innovative programs in school food service."

The company brings with it a lot of excitement and an interesting "Vita Pup" machine, but lacks substance. School lunch has never been anything to brag about, but now people are wondering whether it can get any worse. The food service system at Lexington High School needs to be reformed to better cope with the students' needs.

There is never an adequate supply of food at any of the cafeterias. The new lunch schedule is supposed to alleviate long lines and allow every student to receive a decent lunch, but the new food service is clearly unable to provide for so many students. Most students in third lunch revert to buying snacks and sodas instead of a complete meal.

The Canteen Corporation explains that there are "expanded lunch choices" at each of the cafeterias. This is hardly the case. It is almost impossible for a vegetarian to obtain a nutritious and satisfying meal. The pre-made salads are stale, and the variety of vegetarian food items is limited. There are also supposed to be "new, creative food concepts for each house." Students who have found small bones in the pasta from D House cafeteria would certainly vouch for this. Most of the food is either processed or frozen, making meals bland and distasteful.

One dollar and seventy-five cents for a school lunch is a preposterous amount for food that is made so poorly. If students are expected to perform at their peak efficiency in all their classes, as expected by their teachers, they must receive a finer and better-prepared lunch. As a result, underclassmen are even more eager to obtain open campus and to be able to go to a local restaurant.

Third, school lunch lacks the nutritional value that is necessary for students. Nutrition has always been a part of frequent discussion topics at state board meetings and even at the national governmental level. Many people are concerned that students are not getting the essential nutrients they need, and are meanwhile being bombarded by unhealthy foods filled with fat and grease.

Some improvements have been made over the years, but school lunch still has a long way to go. When a student picks up a rotisserie chicken leg, he is met with a huge amount of oil emanating from the burnt skin. Proper care is not taken to ensure good nutritional value, and in some ways, school lunch can pose a health risk. The hamburgers wading in a puddle of grease and the corn kernels soaking in pools of butter are neither an appetizing sight nor a healthy food choice.

The Canteen Corporation explains that it has "implemented new nutritional guidelines" and made nutritional information more available, but this does not solve the problem. Showing students that what they are eating is unhealthy does not make the food healthy. The food service company must realize that the health of the children is important for their development and for the future.

The Canteen Corporation has tried to make strides over the previous Marriott company but to no avail. The service is similar, but the quality and variety of food has not improved, and if anything, it has become worse. No longer can students go to J Cafeteria knowing that they can
buy a tray of nachos. No longer is Domino's pizza associated with C cafeteria. The Canteen Corporation has failed to bring consistency and quality to the food they provide.

So what can students do until the school food service cleans up its act? The logical choice would be to take five minutes and pack a lunch from home. There are so many better ways to spend one dollar and seventy-five cents than on a measly school lunch. A packed lunch will guarantee that students receive the correct nutritional and quality standards they need. Students will not have to worry about what types of food are served each day, or whether they will even obtain a sufficient meal. The lunch service company is raking in profits at the students' expense. Students deserve better. Until Canteen Corporation is able to reform the lunch program, a packed lunch is the way to go.

- Mandar Muzumdar
Class of 1999

Photo by Dan Myung

WOMEN IN WHITE - "It's okay, Mary. Let 'em think I'm a girl. My moustache proves everything," says a calm junior Claire Cuno (l) to a miffed Mary Taylor (r). The Halloween Dance will take place on October 31.

Academic teams make the grade

By Yuen-Jong Liu

Every year, the Lexington High School Math Team competes in a variety of competitions around the state. Coached by Mr. Sal Rahman, the math team competes monthly in the MML (Massachusetts Math League) and the GBML (Greater Boston Math League). Both competitions sport categories such as number theory, algebra, geometry, inequalities, conic sections and trigonometry.

Each participant is given ten minutes to complete the three problems in a category. While the individual rounds are often harrowing, the end of each meet consists of a team round, where the entire math team works on a set of questions together. This part of the meet is always the most exciting, as the combined intellect of LHS often propels the team to victory. For the GBML meets, Lexington sends two teams of five students, while the MML meets require one ten-person team.

Lexington regularly competes against schools such as Canton, Newton, Acton-Boxborough, and Concord-Carlisle, often winning with resounding scores. These meets are held once a month from October to March, on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at the participating high schools. Although Lexington's continuous success provides infinite motivation for the math students, the free soda and doughnuts provided by the host school remain the most cherished incentives.

Other less-known but prestigious competitions include WPI (Worcester Polytechnic Institute) and the UMass Lowell Math Challenge. The WPI competition takes place on a single Thursday morning in October, consisting of both individual and team competition. The four mathletes from the winning team are not only awarded scholarships to WPI, but also beautifully crafted glass mugs. Lexington has posted a perfect record at the WPI competition for five consecutive years, thanks to their hard work and the alluring glass mug incentive.

Lexington has posted a perfect record at the WPI competition for five consecutive years, thanks to their hard work and the alluring glass mug incentive.

The UMass Lowell Math Challenge is a team Jeopardy-style competition in which teams of four mathletes race against each other to answer stimulating mathematical problems. A very exciting and nerve-wracking competition, the Math Challenge has also been won by Lexington for five consecutive years. While scholarships to UMass Lowell have been given to the winning team, the winners are also presented with illustrious UMass Lowell baseball caps.

For the past two years, Lexington has sent two science bowl teams to the regional Science bowl competition, in hopes of advancing to the national competition in Washington, D.C. While Lexington placed fourth and second two years ago, last year the Lexington science bowl teams swept the competition, winning first and second place, sending Lexington's champion team to the national competition. At the science bowl competions, each team of five competes against other teams in a round-robin style elimination. Each match consists of a speed-buzzer format, where the first member to buzz-in from any team may answer the question.

In constrast to science bowl, the science olympiad is a slower-paced competition, where a team of fifteen students compete in various events. Science Olympiad tests a variety of scientific knowledge, with events from engineering to chemistry for groups of one, two or three people. For two consecutive years, Lexington has won the state championship, advancing to the national competition. At the national competition in Atlanta two years ago, Lexington placed twentieth. Last year, competing at North Carolina State Univesity, Lexington placed tenth in the nation.

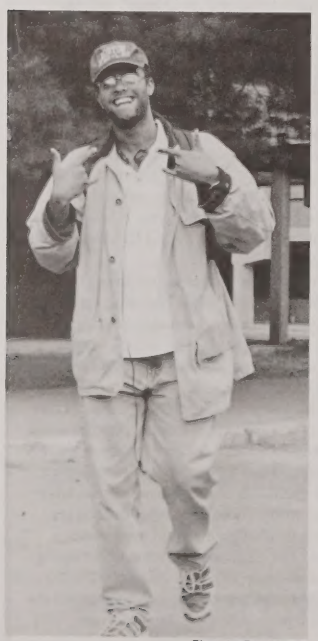

Photo by Dan Myung

DARN I'M FINE - Senior Rasheed Townes knows who's number one.

New teachers aboard for 1996-97

By Ashwini Nadkarni

New faces at the high school this fall are not limited to those of scrubbed freshmen cherubs. Seventeen new teachers have come to Lexington to teach in various subjects. This reporter interviewed five and discovered a number of compelling facts about each.

Though all are new to the high school, none are teaching neophytes. Mr. Shea, who teaches Pre-Calculus, Introduction to Calculus and Algebra I this year, was one in a series of substitutes for Mrs. King's classes last year. In addition, he taught as a student teacher with Mr. Rahman. Prior to his arrival at LHS, Shea was an engineer at Nynex, responsible for designing outside networks. Moreover, he frequently taught a geometry math class at Arlington High School.

Asked if he thought there was a marked difference between the atmosphere at Arlington and Lexington High Schools, Shea responded in the negative. "The kids are what frame the atmosphere and in my experience, both juniors and sophomores here are just as great and motivated as they were at Arlington High."

Unlike Shea, some attest to Lexington High School's uniqueness. Mr. Davison, who teaches biology and chemistry, maintains that the line distinguishing LHS from Phillips Academy in Andover, is a picometer's worth of zeroes more than fine. "I find that there is a lot more time for laboratory work as well as more time to be thoughtful in my classes here," explained Davison. Asked how that affects his goals for his students, Davison replied, "I want them to take this time to learn how to think critically and be open minded. Sure, they should learn the facts of chemistry and biology. But that basic curriculum should be interspersed with inklings of wisdom on life."

It seems that Ms. Amara couldn't agree more. This academic and emotional counselor worked at Savio Preparatory High School before coming to Lexington. Like Davison, she too emphasized the importance of thinking independently in her goals for her students. In addition, Amara expressed the necessity of realizing one's gifts and talents. As for her reaction to the novelties of counseling at Lexington High School? Let's just say Amara is no scheduling fiend.

There are still others who are quite vocal on their opinions of the environment as well as faculty at LHS. Ms. Hansel, who teaches World History and Global Civilization classes, finds the faculty extremely supportive. In addition, she enjoys the eagerness of her students to learn the "lasting skills" which she hopes to impart to them. However, Hansel does note that while the differences between the setting of LHS and the Garfield School in San Diego are marked, the differences between LHS and Newton North are not. "Their only differences seem to lie in the bureaucracy," she says of LHS and Newton North.

Yours truly conducted her final interview with Ms. Jackson. This Spanish teacher worked at Lincoln Sudbury prior to her arrival at LHS. Though she taught here part-time last year, Jackson is a recent addition to our faculty of regular foreign language teachers. Asked what she values about her students, Jackson replied, "They work to the best of their ability and have great motivation toward achieving academic excellence." Could we ask for anything more? A school chock full of students who actually try to "be all they can be" and scorn (with only a few exceptions) the army fatigues.

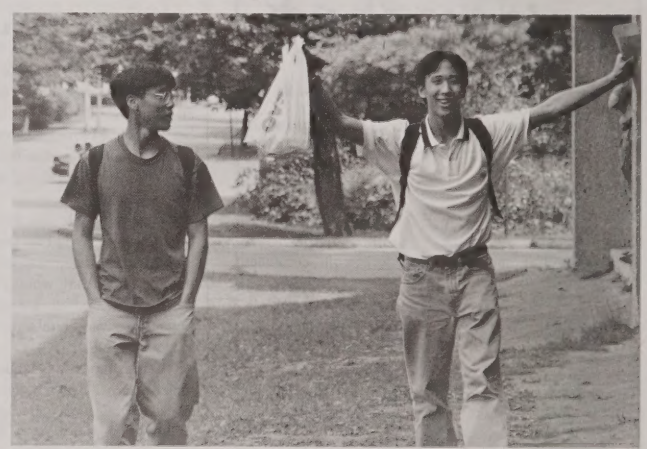

Photo by Dan Myung

CONQUERER - Senior Herb "Herrrrrb" Chen (r) roars in triumph as he returns glorious from CVS. Senior John Chan (l) stares in awe.

News Briefs

STUDENTS COMMENDED

47 LHS seniors were named Commended Students in the 1998 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 35,000 students throughout the nation received Letters of Commendation for placing in the top 5% of the million takers of the 1996 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Congratulations to Christopher Beltz, Rafael Bras, Robin Chang, Kevin Chen, Herbert Chen, Alex Chu, Steve Clark, Megan Curtis, John D'Amore, Ben Elgart, Tom Ellis, Matt Fahnestock, Steve Hayden, Hanshin Hsieh, Darcy Jaw, Paul Jensen, Jessica Kaplan, Amit Karna, Kurt Kastorf, Stephen Kerr, Josh Kessler, Ayesha Khan, Elliott Kim, Leslie King, Ken Kolodziej, Jason Koning, Jen Lee, Mike Leskiw, Alice Lin, Stephanie Loomis, Eric Lyons, Josh Magri, Brent Murakami, Dan Myung, Matt Oliff, Andrew Paul, Bill Potter, Leela Ramnath, Katherine Rose, Jason Rosenfeld, Matt Saradjian, Andy Schachter, Carolyn Shank, Amie Shei, Tim Shugert, Jessica Tsai, and Kate Waller.

SENIOR WRITER HONORED

Senior Sarah Park was recently selected as a winner in the 1997 NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing. More than 3,000 students throughout the country submitted compositions to the National Council of Teachers of English. Over 600 were honored for their exceptional writing.

V-ball makes fashion statement

By Becky Ticotsky

LHS volleyball coach Jane Bergin is sometimes frightened by her team's "bizarre" outfits. Although she acknowledges that Lexington's wacky accessories help build team unity, Bergin was shocked when junior setter Leah Kraemer walked into her office with her arm in a sling. The coach was relieved that Kraemer was merely participating in the team's "injury day," but was horrified that the costumes would jinx the team's health.

"I didn't appreciate that too much," Bergin said.

Dressing up on game days has become such a staple for the team that Bergin and the Minutemaids believe that wearing normal clothes before a match would be bad luck.

"We're a very superstitious team," said Bergin. More logically based reasoning for wearing distinctive clothes exists as well.

"It gives us spirit to see our teammates in the hallway," said senior co-captain Amber Moore, an All-League middle blocker

Dressing up on game days has become such a staple that...wearing normal clothes before a match would be bad luck.

last season. The volleyball team, according to senior Becca Mayer, "has more team spirit than all the other teams put together." This closeness requires a lot of work, however. Quoting Mariah Carey, senior Sarah Raeburn said the 'Maids "make it happen," by organizing team dinners and sleepovers, which are fun in addition to being helpful during matches.

"We communicate a lot better on the floor because we communicate with each other off the court," Bergin said. "We have overall enthusiasm and that makes a real difference."

Illustrating Bergin's point is Lexington's dominance in the North Shore League, winning 28 league matches in a row. The team's only loss during its 6-1 start was to Andover, a powerful non-league team included in LHS' schedule as preparation for the state tournament.

Juniors Kraemer, Marie Jette, and Kim Klimoski have impressed Bergin by "holding it together" in their first full year of varsity play. Everyone on the team is responsible for the team's success, however.

"We are led by our captains, Amber Moore and Melanie Figueiredo," Bergin said. "But this year has been truly a team effort."

Photo by Dan Myung

GOOD LUCK KISS - Senior volleyball co-captains Amber Moore and Melanie Figueiredo (l-r) are ready for the game.

LHS Girls' Swimming powerful once again

By Becky Dedrick

Those blue-bathrobed beauties, the Minutemaids, are swimming their way to a repeat of the outstanding seasons of yesteryear, "as mighty arse-kickers," according to senior co-captain Lyndsay Thompson.

"The team is working very hard," said Coach Donna Cerrato. "They never say 'die,' and the season's not over yet."

This solid team includes the self-described "Long-Distance Crew," consisting of Jen "Dazzle-'Em" Doyle, Sarah "Bone-Crusher" Calvin, and other talented swimmers. Additionally, sophomore Carol "Killer" Chow and versatile junior Kelly "Powerhouse" Archidiacano are amazing assets to this extremely dedicated pack of swimmers.

Although the swimmers have been practicing hard in order to succeed this season, they know that once their matching blue flip-flops come in, they'll be turning heads in and out of the pool.

Photo by Dan Myung

USING THEIR HEADS - X-country captains Carolyn Shank and Kate Waller (l-r) don their version of the swim cap.

Frosh phenom drives golf to winning streak

By Ben Eastwood

The Lexington High golf team is off to a quick start with a 3-1 record. The Minutemen must win only two of their five remaining matches to clinch a berth in the state tournament.

The 'Men defeated Watertown and Wakefield at the Lexington Country Club and Stoneham on the road. The team's loss was to Winchester in a very tight, away match.

Junior Dave Oberto, Lexington's number one golfer, has gotten off to a solid 2-2 start. Senior captain Chris Butts has worked his way up the lineup with strong play and a 3-1 record.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the year has been the performance of freshman Todd Hodgedon, who has come from out of nowhere to play excellent golf, providing Lexington with a 4-0 record. Other contributors to the team include juniors Tim Carlson, Spencer Nichols, and Ari Vigoda, who, along with Oberto and Hodgedon, makeup Lexington's steady top five.

"We're getting consistent play at the top," said Coach Rick Thibeault. "It's putting us in position to win with the rest of the league."

Instead of practicing his putting, Butts was caught in the hat store, looking for a replacement for his Rolling Stones Voodoo Lounge Tour hat. His mind was set on the Bridges to Babylon hat, but was swayed by the sales clerk, who convinced him to buy the Steel Wheels hat. It's a classic.

Girls' Soccer vying for tournament berth

By Katherine Rose

The Lexington High School girls soccer team has had a strong first half of the season, and is looking to improve on their record to clinch a postseason tournament spot. As of September 26th, the Minutemaids have a record of 3 wins, 3 losses, and 3 ties. One of the Maids season-long goals has been to make the tournament, and that goal is still within reach.

In order to make the tournament, a team must have 18 points. As of now, the Maids have 9 points. Teams receive 2 points for a win, 1 for a tie, and 0 for a loss. If the Maids have a better record in the latter half of the season, they are guaranteed a tournament berth. Everyone on the team is confident that the Maids will prevail. Senior tri-captain Caitlin Wolf said, "some of the games that we tied we can definitely win in our second time around."

On Saturday, September 20th, the girls faced Belmont, an excellent team that is ranked fifth in Massachusetts. The Maids played hard, and ended up tying the powerful Belmont team with a score of 1-1. Coach Kelly Ohanian is enthusiastic about the team's ability. "When we play a controlled game and make good passes, we can stand up to any team," she says. The underclassmen on the team are also showing great promise, a good sign for the Maids, who will be losing 10 seniors to graduation this year.

Said senior tri-captain Alice Lin, "Our team is really deep. Everyone is skilled. We are able to sub often and never let down on the intensity of the game because everyone is so good."

Tuesday, September 30th, the girls faced Wakefield at home. The Maids lost to Wakefield 2-0 in their last face-off, but is ready to come away with a win and improve the team record. This win is definitely within reach for the team.

Senior tri-captain Andrea Pawliczek, snazzily clad in her Nike goalie uniform, is happy with the team's performance so far. Expressing her approval, she says, "this season is the first time in my career at LHS that the team has been over .500!" The team has 9 games left to capture those crucial 9 points necessary to make it to the tournament. This would be a new experience for all of the seniors, and they have no intention on missing out on what would be an exciting and challenging tournament. Because the team is so skilled and has so much drive, everyone expects to be cheering on the Maids come tournament time.

Photo by Dan Myung

KICKING IT - The opposition surrenders the ball to senior Laura Jansen's charge.

Injury bug takes toll on football team

By Alex Sherman

After an 18-15 victory over Arlington to start off the season, the boys' varsity football team has been hit with a barrage of injuries, en route to two straight losses to Concord-Carlisle and Wakefield.

"When you lose so many starters in high school football, it's very difficult to regroup," admitted Coach Bill Tighe. "Our team does not have a lot of depth."

Lexington began the season on a high note, upsetting Greater Boston league rival Arlington 18-15 in a come-from-behind victory. Junior Tom Bellini scored all three touchdowns in the opener for Lexington, one on a 1 yard run, another on a 29 yard pass, and the last coming on a 46 yard break away run which clinched the victory for Lexington. Junior Chuck Howe and senior Ben Caram both recorded two sacks in the victory, and senior Nick Campisi ran for over 100 yards and intercepted a pass which was pivotal in the latter stages of the game.

Arlington led at half-time, 7-0, but Lexington scored 18 straight on Bellini's three TDs. Arlington scored again with 24 seconds to play in the game, but sophomore Dan Joyner fell on their on-sides kick to clinch the win for the Blue and Gold. Coach Tighe was impressed with the effort.

"Campisi and Bellini did a wonderful job out there. It was one of the best running performances we've had in a long time."

Unfortunately, any momentum that the team may have had was lost at the hands of Concord. Although the Minutemen did score first, on a one yard touchdown by, CC scored 22 points in a row in a runaway. To add insult to injury, Caram, Lexington's star fullback/defensive end, injured his knee late in the contest and may be out for the year.

"Losing Caram is a big loss. I hope he is able to come back this season," said Tighe.

After facing Concord, who is undefeated as of print time, Lexington took on Wakefield, whom most coaches consider to be the premier team in the Middlesex League. In their first league contest, Lexington could not stay with the explosive offense of the Warriors, crumbling 20-8. However, the biggest loss of the game was the injury to the ankle of senior Taj Washington. Washington left the game in the second quarter and could not return. For the remainder of the game, he stood on crutches on the sideline. Campisi, the star RB/DB, came in for Washington and will continue to play quarterback until Washington is ready for action again. If Lexington wants to stay in contention for the ML title, they will need Washington at the helm.

Despite the 1-2 record, Lexington has been able to play very competitively with both Concord and Wakefield, and should feast on their easier opponents later in the year. As of now, the biggest game of the season looks to be the annual Thanksgiving Pigskin Classic, when the Minutemen play at Burlington. Both teams have showed potential, and the matchup should be a real test for both.

Photo by Dan Myung

BORN TO RUN - Senior Dana Walczak is the boss of the road as she leads the pack toward the finish line.

Field Hockey whacks at foes

By Jason Hirschhorn

With wins against Reading and Stoneham, the girls' field hockey team would be undefeated if it were not for a tough loss against league powerhouse, Watertown. However, Lexington does get to play Watertown once more in a showdown which, in most likelihood, will determine the champion of the Middlesex League.

The Blue and Gold's high powered offense is led by senior Alicia Cabrera, who has totalled nine goals in the team's first four games. Senior co-captain Kara McManus complements Cabrera's scoring with great stick handling and passing. Senior Christina Orf, who scored two goals in the hyped Watertown game and a goal and an assist against Stoneham, adds some scoring pop to the line-up.

Lexington is now 5-1, coming off a big 5-1 win against Stoneham. However, one does not have to watch Lexington for long to see the real strength of the team this year. It is the defense which anchors the Maids and leads to scoring opportunities. The defense is anchored by freshman goalie, Jilian Savoy.

One does not have to watch Lexington for long to see the real strength of the team this year. It is the defense which anchors the Maids and leads to scoring opportunities.

Savoy had an incredible game against Watertown with fifteen saves, and has already showed big game potential. Junior defensemen Kristin Hopwood and Adriana Shick make Savoy's job in net easier, using their speed and timing to force opposing teams to turn the ball over.

The defense was evident in the Stoneham contest, shutting out the Spartans in the first half. In fact, Lexington only allowed two shots on goal throughout the entire game. McManus displayed overall leadership, hustle, and athletic ability as she pushed the ball down field numerous times.

As well as Lexington has played in their first six games, allowing only four goals and netting twenty three, the players still feel they can play better. McManus reasoned after the Stoneham game, "We played pretty well, not as well as we could have, not even as well as we did against Watertown, but good enough to win. We were bunched together in the first half, after we spread out, we played much better."

More than their defense or offense, it is the team's attitude that will take them far. One things is sure, no opponent will overlook Lexington on its schedule.

Photo by Dan Myung

EXPECTORATE THE BEST - Senior Kerry Needham (l) prepares her own solution for winning the game.

X-Country teams off to a fast start

By Carolyn Shank

The cross country team results have been a mixed bag thus far, although both teams have abundant talent. The girls' team boasts a perfect 4-0 record after completing their first two meets against Wakefield and Woburn and a double-dual against Watertown and Melrose at home. Sadly, the boys have not fared as well, losing their first two meets also against Wakefield and Woburn.

The girls season opened with a meet at Wakefield. The Minutemaid harriers trounced Wakefield with a score of 19 to 39. Lexington nabbed five of the top six places against Wakefield, with 1996 season League All-Star Emily Wanderer leading the way for the Minutemaids with a blazing time of 18 minutes, 33 seconds over the 2.8 mile course.

"We have a very strong core of runners who work well in together in competition."

- Captain Kate Waller

Following Wanderer was fellow junior Eleanor Finnegan, who has moved up seven slots on the varsity roster since last season. Junior Lindsay Martin placed third in a very strong race. Senior Meredith Rommelfanger ran an excellent race to finish fourth, barely beating the first Wakefield runner who ended up placing fifth. Senior newcomer Dana Walczak also ran very well, placing sixth overall. Walczak has been a pleasant surprise for the Minutemaids, compensating for the loss of four seniors last year.

Senior Co-captain Kate Waller attributed part of the Minutemaids' success so far to "the depth of the team. We have a very strong core of runners who work well together in competition."

The other Minutemaid varsity finishers included Mallika Mundkur, 11th, captain Carolyn Shank, 13th, Tanya Brennan, 14th, Deena Mencow, 15th, and Grace Licorish, 16th.

The next meet was a bit tougher, but the girls still came out on top with a score of 25 to 30. Janessa Buttaro of Woburn, one of the strongest runners in the Middlesex League, placed first on the 3-mile Woburn course, while Lexington's Wanderer placed second in a very close race. Rommelfanger ran another superb race for the Maids, finishing third. Waller placed 5th, an excellent effort, considering that it was her first race after being injured. The next Minutemaid placer was Martin in 7th, followed by Finnegan in 8th and Walczak in 9th.

Although the boys team is very large and deep this year, they have suffered two unfortunate losses in the first two hard-fought meets. The season opened at Wakefield, which is fielding an excellent boys' team this year.

The first Lexington finisher was sophomore phenom Gates Joseph. In second place for Lexington was junior Nick Roetter, a first-time cross country runner who has been a invaluable addition to the team. Third for Lexington was another newcomer, junior Mike Mihovan. Captain Josh Muller was the Minutemen's fourth man. Despite the excellent performances by the Minutemen, Wakefield managed to eke out a victory with a score of 26 to 29. Part of the reason for the loss was that Captain Steve Kerr inadvertently missed the start of the race, and unfortunately could not score any points for the Lexington squad.

The next opponent was Woburn, another very good team that just barely beat Lexington in a heartbreaker. The final score was 28 to 29. Joseph and Roetter both had phenomenal days, placing first and second. Unfortunately, the Woburn team managed to grab third and fourth places. Muller finished fifth, and was followed by four Woburn runners, which clinched the victory for the Tanners.